
USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

CHAMPIONSHIP Mark Moore, Chair Jeff Roddin, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Tom Boak, Debbie Cavanaugh, Lisa Dahl, Barry Fasbender, Jill Gellatly, Errol Graham, Jack Grosselle, Michael Moore, Steve Newman, Lori Payne, Barbara Protzman, Sandi Rousseau, C.J. Rushman, Jody Smith, Diane Stowell, Robin Sebnitz and Lisa Watson, Assoc. Member.: Jane A. Moore, Ex-officio: Leo Letendre, Ex-officio: Jim Matysek

Opening paragraph: Our mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to national championship hosts and make recommendations and decisions that enhance the quality of championship meets for all registered USMS members; to actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids and make recommendations to the House of Delegates regarding sites for national championship meets; and support marketing opportunities for USMS Corporate Partners.

Championship Meet Liaisons

2008 SCY Nationals in Austin, Texas: May 1-4: Carolyn Boak/Tom Boak, the meet liaisons, worked with the meet host for this meet.

2008 LCM Nationals in Gresham, Oregon: August 14-17: Barry Fasbender, the meet liaison, worked with the meet host for this meet.

2009 SCY Nationals in Austin, Texas: May 1-4: Michael Moore, the meet liaisons, is working with the meet host for this meet.

2009 LCM Nationals in Gresham, Oregon: August 14-17: Barbara Protzman/CJ Rushman, the meet liaison, is working with the meet host for this meet.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Championship Committee is working closely with the Rules Committee comparing Sections 101, 102, and 108 in our USMS Rule Book to make sure they are compatible with current USA rules. Also Section 104 is being looked at with the Meet Director's Guide and Meet Contract.

2010 SCY and LCM Championship Bids: Jeff Roddin prepared a 'host a national meet' letter that was sent out to major facilities encouraging them to consider bidding in 2010 for either the SCY or LCM Championship. The following groups were mailed bid packages: New York (Long Island), Bismark, ND, Atlanta, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. There is also the possibility of bids from Missouri and Michigan.

1. National Championship Bid Package: The task force continues to look at the current bid package and suggest revisions to this committee.
2. Meet Director's Guide: Tom and Sandi updating on going process – look into posting on the USMS website.
3. USMS Championships Bidding Resources on USMS Web Site
USMS Championships - Bidding Resources (web site page sample)

The Championship Committee developed and maintains guidelines for the use of meet directors. The documents can now be downloaded in PDF format from the USMS web site.

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Introduction Letter

The Introduction Letter will aid meet directors in the bidding process, including planning and organizing their event.

National Championship Application

The National Championship Application needs to be filled out and submitted to the Championship Committee Chair by the first week in August. The selection process takes place at the USAS Convention, typically held in September each year (see <http://www.usms.org/admin/conv/> for a schedule).

Pool Length Certification Form

The pool length certification must be on file with USMS. Please submit a copy with your application.

Budget & Financial Summaries

A sample Budget gives summarizes and will assist how you spend your money and help create guidelines for your spending.

Action items:

1. Approve the NQT's for 2009 Short Course Nationals
Current policy is for 10th place = 10% (Top Ten Times)

Rule Proposals: The Championship Committee has submitted a rule proposal to require that bids for National Championships be turned in 60 days before the annual meeting (was 30 days).

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm

Centennial I

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 pm

Centennial I

1. Review/discuss 2008 SC and LC meets
2. Discuss all rules proposals submitted that affect National Championships.
3. Review awards, logo and plans for the 2009 National Championships.
4. Discussion of new projects and ways of doing things for future National Championships.
5. 2009 NQT's
6. Review recommendation changes for the Championship Bid Packet

CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS

Friday, September 26th, 5:00-5:45 pm

Centennial I

1. Bidders will be given 5 minutes to present their proposals for hosting a National Championship.
2. After each presentation, Championship members will address concerns and ask questions regarding each of the presented bids. The questioning will then be open to the HOD for additional questions.

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3. The Championship Committee will vote to recommend a host of each nationals by secret ballot.
4. The House of Delegates will vote the next day by secret ballot. All bidders will be listed on the ballot.

COACHES

Chris Colburn, Chair

Committee Members: Bob Bruce, Chuck Burr, Lee Carlson, Mo Chambers, Jerry Clark, Jim Clemmons, Bill Cleveland, Amanda Conk, Doug Garcia, John Grzeszczak, Allen Highnote, Emmett Hines, Kris Houchens, Mike Jacobson, Wayne McCauley, Don Mehl, Ed Nessel, Kerry O'Brien, Ed Nessel, Kerry O'Brien, Ahelee Sue Osborn, Dick Pitman, Galen Rinaldi, Rand Vaillancourt, Scott Williams, Robert Zeitner

Opening Paragraph: The Coaches Committee has had another busy year. Much of the new work we have undertaken this year involves aligning our current projects with the Strategic Plan. New work has involved projects designed to attract more coaches, improve the quality of coaches and their coaching, and to provide opportunities for coaches to learn how to grow their programs through their work both on and off the pool deck. We have begun work on a project to re-evaluate and realign the content of the Coaches section of the website to focus on the two distinct areas of coaching swimming and coach resource and development. The committee has provided valuable feedback to the Club Development Task Force on the recruitment, retention, and development of coaches. On-Deck Coaching has continued to benefit our members at Nationals, at Convention, and even at Olympic Trials and FINA Worlds. Online Coaching, always a hit with our members, sees a planned expansion for 2009 will take advantage on an expanded focus on both triathletes and season-specific interests. Our clinic programs have not been well-utilized at the national level this year, and we will undertake plans to redesign the program to reach a greater audience in 2009.

Discussions and projects since the last convention: We have solicited and received feedback on the reorganization of the Coaches section of the USMS website and the Coaching section of the USMS Discussion Forums. We have also begun to explore how to incorporate some of the committee's previous work on coaching resource development into the new structure of the site.

1. We have begun to collect data as part of a dialogue with USAT on the numbers of triathletes in USMS programs, and the options available to triathletes in USMS programs.
2. We have begun discussions on how to restructure the mentor clinic program to better benefit both coaches and members.
3. We had a great showing for On-Deck Coaching in Austin, and received positive feedback about the coaches who provided assistance at Worlds. We anticipate good numbers for On-Deck Coaching both in Portland and in Atlanta.

Action items:

Continue work to restructure the USMS web presence (usms.org/coach) to reflect a dual focus on coaching and coaches.

1. Continue work on the mentor clinic restructuring so the program more effectively benefits coaching and coach development with an eye towards club development and

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membership retention/attraction.

2. Continue to work on improved communication with a larger network of coaches by reaching out to local Coaches chairs, working with them to understand and address their needs, and utilizing them to expand the base of coaches.

COACHES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm Centennial I

1. Discussion of Rules/Legislation that affect the Committee
2. Close-out/Projects moving to the National Office
 - Underwater Video Camera Rental
 - Video/DVD Rental
3. Ongoing Projects
 - ASCA Clinic organization
 - Coach of the Year
 - Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award
 - On-Deck Coaching
 - International Coaching at Worlds
 - Online Coaching
 - contributions to *USMS SWIMMER*
 - Coaches email communications
 - USAT Partnership
 - Web Page Redesign
 - New/Revised Projects
 - Mentor Clinic Redesign
 - Club Development Task Force support
4. New Business

COMMUNICATIONS Hugh Moore, Chair Kim Crouch, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Bonnie Coleman, Daniel Cox, Susan Ehringer, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, Pete Palmer, Al Prescott, Carl Saxton, Jeanne Seidler, Doug Garcia, Tracy Grilli, Jim Matysek, Bill Volckening, and Mark Gill (EC Liaison)

Opening paragraph:

The committee includes members with experience in general communication and Information Technology and can be a resource for USMS clubs, LMSCs, and committees. Contact communications AT usms DOT org if your club, LMSC, or committee would like help or if you have questions.

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Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. LMSC Handbook. Pete Palmer, Kim Crouch, and Hugh Moore updated the communications section of LMSC handbook in November.
2. Calendar of Events. Lynn Hazlewood continues to edit the Calendar of Events for the USMS website and Hugh coordinates approval by LMSCs for non-sanctioned events. Jim Matysek is revising the database and Graphical User Interface (GUI). Once the revised Calendar is rolled out, Jeanne Seidler will take over as editor.
3. LMSC Websites. Ray Novitske has led a subcommittee with Kim Couch, Dan Cox, and Jeanne Seidler. They contacted LMSCs that did not have websites and have been instrumental in getting a couple of LMSCs to start sites. Ray is going to provide the “web-in-a-box” for other LMSCs without websites. Web-in-a-box would be the sample website and specific instructions for items like obtaining a domain name
4. Places to Swim. Ray has led a subcommittee with Kim Crouch, Tracy Grilli, and Dan Cox that has made recommendations for revising the methods for collecting and displaying Places to Swim data on the USMS website. At the request of the Communications Committee, Mark Gill will present the Places to Swim recommendations to the Executive Committee.
5. Emails to members. The committee has forwarded a plan for providing bi-monthly email to members to Mark Gill. Mark will present the plan to the Executive Committee and Rob Butcher for implementation
6. Meet Events Database. Our contract with CRG Web Services to host the database was terminated in January with short notice, prompting Jim Matysek to host the database on the USMS website. Jim has restructured the database and written new GUI tools. Jeanne Seidler continues to coordinate uploading results. Her goal is to include results from all sanctioned and recognized meets in the database. For a meet to be recorded, the meet results must be in the format of the Hy-Tek backup, Hy-Tek *.cl2 or an SDIF file format. Several LMSCs voluntarily and spontaneously e-mail their results to the meetresults@usms.org mailbox as meets are run. The majority of results are obtained through individual efforts of following up on a one-by-one basis with e-mails to solicit the LMSCs for specific meets. The database currently includes over 800 meets and 700,000 splashes. The website tools allow individuals to track their times at <http://www.usms.org/comp/meets/resultstrack.php> or track performance by events at <http://www.usms.org/comp/meets/toptimes.php>. Additionally, Jim has incorporated the ability to look up your recent times when entering National Championships. Jim is also working on the ability to use the database as input for the top ten process.
7. The Newsletter of the Year award will be presented at convention. Carl Saxton led the selection committee that included Bonnie Coleman, Pete Palmer, Ray Novitske, Doug Garcia, and Randy Crutchfield. They reviewed nearly 300 hardcopy and online newsletters. Criteria included content, creativity, presentation, range of appeal, and consistency.
8. The June Krauser USMS Communications Award will be presented at convention. Hugh Moore led the selection committee that included Hill Carrow, Raena Latina, Chris McGiffin, and Bill Volckening.
9. Future direction of the committee. The committee has discussed potential future projects, including providing information and tools to LMSCs and clubs to aid webmasters and providing newsletter archives that could be shared by newsletter editors.

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Action items:

Mark Gill will present committee recommendations to the Executive Committee for providing periodic email to members, improving the content of the Places to Swim list on the USMS website, and sharing USMS Committee minutes among all committee chairs and vice chairs.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm

Kennesaw

1. Introduction
2. Future Direction of the Committee/Potential Projects
 - a. Provide resources for club and LMSC websites
 - b. Newsletter archive
3. Review of USMS Communication Plan
4. Email to Members
5. LMSC Websites
6. Places to Swim
7. Meet Events Database
8. Sanction Data Base/End to End Event Management
9. Calendar of Events
10. Rule Book
11. Awards
12. Tasks for upcoming year

FINANCE

Ralph Davis, Chair
Sarah Welch, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Thomas Boak, David Burgio, Joanie Campbell, Ross Davis, Elyce Dilworth, Phil Dodson, Betsy Durrant, Jeanne Ensign, Paul Griffin, Conrad Johnson, Lucy Johnson, Homer Lane, Fred Nelis, Anna Lea Roof, Ex Officio: Margaret Bayless, Ex Officio: Doug Church, Ex Officio: Jeff Moxie, Leo Letendre (VPNO)

Report and meeting agenda will be sent separately

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm

Fairlie

Friday, September 26th, 10:15 am-12:15 pm

Fairlie

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 am

Fairlie

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FITNESS EDUCATION

Marcia Anziano, Chair

Linda Shoenberger, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Lee Carlson, Terry Sue Gault, Janet Latham, Susan Moucha, Greta Van Meeteren, Rhea Wilkins, Morgan Edwards, Jean Fox, Raena Latina, Donna Schubkegel, Michelle Ward, Theresa Wistrom, Mary Field, Ken Koppenhaver, Tom Mester, Mary Sweat, Joday Welborn.

Year in Review: During this past year, the focus has been on Go The Distance, Check Off Challenge, and monthly articles for the Web.

Linda Shoenberger has very successful in keeping fresh new articles on the web on a monthly basis. She has consistently had a new article for every month, not always achieved in prior years.

Go the Distance has continued to be a very successful program under the guidance of Mary Sweat. As of this report (July 9, 2008) there were 563 participants ranging in age from 20 to 91, largest age groups being 40 – 45, 45 – 49 (both groups have 93 participants), and the age group having swum the greatest distance is 50 – 54. Of significance, we have 283 participants from 2007 GTD (out of 364), 77%, returning for more fun this year.

The Check Off Challenge was hosted in 2008 by the Noblesville Adult Swim Team, NASTI, out of Noblesville Indiana. With the theme of “from the blocks to the wall, swim them all” and under the direction of Raena Latina, the event drew the largest number of participants in it’s history, with close to 500 participants.

A subcommittee was formed early in the year, consisting of Janet Latham, Mary Field, Tom Mester, and Lee Carlson to look at a possible third fitness event to add to the mix. At this point, it was decided to forego a third event in an effort to continue to focus on the two events that we currently support. Instead, we decided to support more group efforts in both the existing events, and will be looking at ways in which we can do this. It is felt that these events cover two very basic concepts for all swimmers, logging distance and trying new and different events in a stress free environment. We know from experience that it takes a long time for these to catch on, and now that they are both being met with more success, we want to focus on their continued growth.

FITNESS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am

Centennial I

1. Introduction of all members.
2. Wrap-UP of current programs for 2008
 - Check-Off challenge – Raena Latina
 - Go the Distance – Mary Sweat
3. Choose Sponsor for 2009 Check Off Challenge
4. Presentation on Maintenance of Go the Distance – Mary Sweat

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5. Final review of proposal to have USMS provide automated interface for GTD
6. Group Fitness Event – discussion of how to promote the team aspects of GTD and Check Off Challenge
7. Ideas on Web Articles for 2009 – Linda Shoenberger
8. Fitness Award

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Barbara Dunbar, Chair

Meegan Wilson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: John Bauman, Marcia Cleveland, Trisha Commons, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Paul Hutinger, Susan Nolte, Jennie (Catherine) Quill, Gail Roper, and Executive Liaison Julie Heather (VPLO)

Opening Paragraph:

The History & Archives (H&A) Committee has worked throughout the year to serve USMS and its members and to accomplish its mission of recording, collecting, archiving, and preserving USMS history and documents. Ongoing projects include locating and archiving documents, performing archive research and swimmer data verification, finding permanent identification (ID) number problems, and collecting, editing, and updating histories and stories of USMS swimmers.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. H&A is in the process of locating 45 old AAU Masters and USMS National Championship Results to convert for posting onto the USMS web site. The search included 1995 Long Course Meters results plus those prior to 1993. The 1995 results were located and scanned into a pdf file and have been uploaded by the webmaster. Ten of the pre-1993 results have been located, scanned, and submitted to the webmaster, but remain to be posted. Nine more results are in the process of being scanned, leaving 25 to be located and scanned for eventual posting.
2. H&A is searching for 30 Open Water/Long Distance/Postal National Championship Results from 1974 through 1991 for eventual posting onto the USMS website. Only one has been found thus far; 29 remain to be found.
3. Writing, editing, adding, and updating stories and oral histories is an ongoing routine that H&A performs during the year along with proofing of links and correcting no-longer valid or erroneous links. By mid year, 17 stories were added and 14 updated. Marcia's new excel stories template is most helpful. Once tools are provided, photos will be added and deceased swimmers will be noted. USMS members are encouraged to help H&A by writing and submitting stories, particularly of older swimmers who need to be interviewed while they are still alive.
4. The work to meticulously convert data from old 1986-1993 registration books into electronic format as well as any pre-1986 registration data continues to be performed by John Bauman. The pre-1994 registration data completed by John has been transmitted to USMS Database Administrator Esther Lyman. H&A continues to search for pre-1986 LMSC registration files to use for reconstruction and authentication of national registration files. To date, only a few LMSC annual or mid-year registration lists prior to 1986 have been obtained. More are needed.

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5. The permanent swimmer IDs are a critical part of maintaining accuracy and enabling access to USMS history, archives, and swimmer's achievements. On the USMS web site, swimmers are linked to top ten times, stories, awards, All American lists, swimmer information pages, etc., via their unique IDs. Permanent ID problems continue to be noted and include swimmers with duplicate, missing, incorrect, changed, or reassigned IDs in the USMS on-line database. These problems have resulted in swimmers "disappearing" or being incorrectly identified in top ten times lists, stories, awards, All American lists, swimmer information pages, etc. Changes, omissions, errors, and duplications in IDs cause big problems. The H&A Committee continues to identify permanent ID problems and discrepancies on the top ten lists, swimmer information pages, and in All American listings and to seek corrections. Requested corrections remain to be done. More timely web support is needed.
6. Twelve (12) story subjects, whose IDs were reassigned to other swimmers, "disappeared" from the swimmer story list as noted two years ago and have yet to reappear. The story subject's name does not appear on the story list and is replaced by the name of the swimmer who received subject's reassigned ID. H&A does not have the ability to fix this problem which requires updating of the USMS on-line database. Incorrect IDs result in invalid links within existing stories and cannot be fixed until the reassigned IDs are added to the on-line database.
7. Committee members continue to help identify and locate IDs for USMS members who have held national records or were honored as All American or All Star so that a massive data file created and maintained by Ginger Pierson for Records and Tabulation eventually can be converted and uploaded to the USMS web site.
8. Documents and lists of USMS historically significant people, events, etc. are being compiled and preserved in electronic format for archiving and for use by USMS entities, committees, and members.
9. Archive research tasks have been performed during the year.
10. There have been several discussions regarding overdue H&A Web Projects "in the pipeline" since 12/31/02.

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am** **Auburn**

1. Call History & Archive Meeting to Order Sept. 25, 2008, Thursday 10:45 – 11:45 AM
2. Roll Call - Barbara Dunbar, Meegan Wilson, John Bauman, Marcia Cleveland, Trisha Commons, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Paul Hutinger, Susan Nolte, Jennie (Catherine) Quill, Gail Roper, and Executive Liaison Julie Heather (VPLO)
3. Introduce and welcome new delegates.
4. Accept Minutes from Sept. 27, 2007 meeting.
5. Old Business: A review of tasks and projects from Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2008 can be found in the Annual Report.
6. Discuss policy issues
7. Discuss general committee focus for coming year.

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8. Discuss web projects. Determine timeline and priority of existing, uncompleted H&A Web Projects. Discuss need for better web support and more control over the content of H&A web pages.
9. Discuss a) missing or incorrect permanent IDs, b) incorrect links to Top Ten IDs, All American & All Star listings, stories, awards, and swimmer information, and c) possible solutions. Discuss procedures for timely correction/ update of swimmer IDs and links by the webmaster/web assistants.
10. Solicit, write, edit, and add swimmer stories and histories; add photos when tools are available; proof and update.
11. Locate old LMSC registration files to be used to reconstruct and verify the pre-1985 national registration files.
12. Request ideas for *USMS SWIMMER* "Splashback" historical section.
13. Locate the following 25 National Championship results, convert, & submit for uploading to USMS web site:
 - 1971 SCY Masters Nationals hosted by ASCA (sanctioned by AAU);
 - 1975 SCY, 1975 LCM, 1976 SCY, & 1976 LCM, 1977 SCY, 1977 LCM, 1978 SCY, 1978 LCM, 1979 SCY, 1979 LCM, 1980 SCY, 1980 LCM, & 1981 LCM US Masters National AAU Championships; and
 - 1982 SCY, 1982 LCM, 1983 SCY, 1983 LCM, 1984 LCM, 1985 SCY, 1985 LCM, 1986 LCM, 1987 LCM, 1988 LCM, & 1989 LCM USMS National Championships.
14. Locate the following 30 Open Water/Long Distance/Postal National Championship results:
 - 1974 AAU National Open Water (OW) Championships – Masters events: men 2-mile cable & women 1.5 mile cable, July 24-25, 1974, in Lake Placid, NY;
 - 1979 AAU National Open Water Championship – Masters 10 mile (marathon event), July 22, 1979, Seal Beach, CA (Huntington Beach to Seal Beach, CA);
 - 1980 AAU National Long Distance Championships – 2-mile event (¼ mi closed course straightaway cable), August 3, 1980, Lake Clare, Huntington, IN;
 - 1981 1/4-mile Straightaway (2-mile cable event), Huntington, IN; 1981 Open Water 3 miles - Seal Beach, CA; and 1981 Marathon (? 10 miles - ? Seal Beach, CA);
 - 1982 1/4-mile Straightaway (2-mile cable event), July 1982, Huntington, IN; 1982 One Mile Open Water (new event), December 1982, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 1982 Open Water 3 miles, July 1982, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1982 Marathon 10 miles, July 1982, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1983 1/4-mile Straightaway (2 mile cable event) July 16-17, 1983, Lake Clare, Huntington, IN, part of the 26th Annual Glen Hummer event hosted by Huntington YMCA, Huntington, IN;
 - 1983 USS/USMS National Long Distance Champs (3 mi open water) – July 17, 1983, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1983 USS/USMS National LD Champs (Marathon Type, 10 miles) – July 17, 1983, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1984 1/4-mile Straightaway (2 mi. cable), ?? where & when; 1984 Open Water (1.5-3 miles) ?? distance, ? 3 mile, July 15, 1984, Seal Beach, CA; 1984 Open Water (3.5-5 miles) ?? when & where; 1984 Team (approx. 6000 yd), ? cancelled, no bid; 1984 Marathon Type (>6 miles), ?? 10 miles – ?? July 15, 1984, 10 mile, Seal Beach, CA;

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1985 One Mile, Atsion Lake, New Jersey (Mid-Atlantic Masters?); 1985 Open Water (3.5-5 miles), 3.5 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1985 Marathon Type (>6 miles), 10 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1985 Team (approximately 6000 yards), University of Alabama (no evidence that it took place)
1986 One Mile, "Glen Hummer" in Indiana; 1986 1/4-mile Straightaway (2 mi. cable), "Glen Hummer," in Indiana;

1986 Open Water (1.5-3.0 miles), 3 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1986 Marathon Type (>6 miles), 10 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1986 Team (approximately 6000 yards), Midwestern Masters (see convention minutes 1985)

1987 One Mile, Bolsa Chica State Beach, CA;

1989 Open Water (>6 miles), 10 miles - Seal Beach, CA;

1991 Open Water (3.5-5.0 miles), 5 miles - San Pedro, CA;

15. Archives research tasks and other new business
16. Action Items
17. Announcements
18. Adjournment

INTERNATIONAL Anthony Thompson, Chair Wayne McCauley, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Peggy Buchannan, Hill Carrow, Laura Colette, Laszlo Eger, Mel Goldstein, Bill Grohe, June Krauser, Myriam Pero, Ex Officio: Jim Miller, MD, , Ex Officio: Nancy Ridout, Mark Gill (VPMS)

In 2008, the USMS International Committee met several times via telephone conference to work on the following projects:

- Updating the International Contacts on USMS Website Project
- Promoting International Events to USMS.
- Gathering information on International events (pool, postal and open water) to be posted on USMS website
- Draft policy for content to be posted on USMS website for International meets.
- Pamphlet on International Travel for USMS members
- Recommend 2 International NGB Guest to attend USMS Convention.
- Draft an international swimming article for FINA Magazine.
- Assist international swimmers at USMS LC Nationals.

In addition, we hosted a guest to one of our committee meetings, Jessica Seaton, USMS Liaison to IGLA to get a report on issues leading to the IGLA Championships which were held in Washington DC area as a USMS sanctioned meet.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm

Inman

1. Brief Introduction of committee and ex-officio members, as well as any international guest to USAS/USMS Convention.
2. Volunteer to take notes at meeting.
3. Brief Review of International Committee activities since 2007 USAS Convention
4. Updates on Tasks underway for the USMS International Committee:
 - a. Recommend 2 International NGB Guests to attend USMS Convention.
 - b. Draft policy for content to be posted on USMS website for International meets.
 - c. Updating the International Contacts on USMS Website Project
 - d. Gathering information on International events (pool, postal and open water) to be posted on USMS website
 - e. Promoting International Events to USMS.
 - f. Draft an international swimming article for FINA Magazine.
 - g. Assist international swimmers at USMS LC Nationals.
 - h. Pamphlet on International Travel for USMS members
5. Old Business – FINA World Record & Top Ten set at events sanctioned by USMS
6. New Business – FINA World Congress and joint work with USMS Rules to recommend FINA Rule changes

LEGISLATION

Sean Fitzgerald, Chair

Jennifer Parks , Vice Chair

Committee Members: Joan Alexander, Marcia Anziano, Daniel Cox, Barbara Delanois, Marilyn Fink, Marty Hendrick, Mary Hull, Arni Litt, Jane Masters, Chris McGriffin, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Steve Peterson, Dick Pitman, Erin Sullivan, Meegan Wilson, Kathy Casey ex-officio, Susan Ehringer ex-officio, Leo Letendre ex-officio.

Opening paragraph:

2008 is an “off-year” for Legislation Amendments. Any 2008 legislation emergency amendment proposals considered by the House of Delegates can be found in another section of this handbook and on the USMS website. We anticipate a few emergency amendments to be proposed by standing committees at the Convention.

The primary focus of the Legislation committee is to review and recommend proposed amendments for the “dry rules” of USMS. We are also responsible for ensuring that our members understand our code. Understanding the legislation ensures that the business conducted is compliant with USMS regulations and bylaws.

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Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Since 2008 is an off year for Legislation, we have turned our attention to the LMSC Handbook. We have started to verify that the information in the Handbook matches the rulebook. We have had a couple instances this year where the Rulebook had one determination while the Handbook had a different interpretation. Our goal is to update the following sections and make sure they match the Rulebook.

- A. Registration
- B. Sanctions
- C. FOG – Financial Operating Guidelines
- D. Convention

Action items: The nature of the Legislation Committee does not lend itself to “Actionable” items outside of the convention. Emergency amendments will be handled at the 2008 Convention while other items will wait for the 2009 Convention.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Friday, September 26th, 10:15-11:15 am** **Centennial I**

1. Roll Call and Assignments
2. Introductory Comments
3. Proposed Legislative Amendments
 - a. Review of amendment criteria and voting procedures
 - b. Consideration and recommendation of proposed emergency amendments
4. LMSC Handbook updates
 - c. Registration
 - d. Sanctions
 - e. FOG
 - f. Convention

MARKETING **Chris McGiffin, Chair** **Tom Boyd, Vice Chair**

Committee Members: Andrea Block, Randy Crutchfield, Nadine Day, Christine Dos Santos, Doug Garcia (Ex Officio), Mark Gill (EC), Mel Goldstein (Ex Officio), Bill Grohe, Vicki Hill, Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno, Laura Davis, Chris Lundie, Danielle Newton, Dave Oplinger, Lori Payne, Gerry Rodrigues, Dick Thomas, Stacey Van Horn.

Opening statement:

The primary focus of the Marketing Committee for this year was directed toward researching and refining the message and content USMS should use to target the external marketing segments

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identified by the 2006 USMS Member Survey reports. The objective is to develop specific marketing materials/programs that will inform potential members about USMS and promote the benefits and value of the USMS member experience. Once created, this targeted literature will serve to promote the organization and grow its membership. Significant progress was achieved by discussing and documenting the perceived needs of the target segments and the gaps that exist with currently available marketing collateral.

In addition to the efforts to develop new marketing tools, the committee reviewed its role or potential roles with some of the ongoing USMS taskforce initiatives: Club Development, Branding, and Corporate Partnership. The committee considered ways that it might be able to augment these initiatives, and in some cases, committee members are playing significant roles in the taskforce activity.

Finally, the committee decided to seek a way to collaborate with the LMSCs in order to enhance local efforts to promote USMS and grow membership. The goal of the committee is to form a partnership with LMSCs to share relevant ideas and expertise when presented with various marketing opportunities. The committee feels strongly that this relationship has the potential to benefit both local and national marketing strategies, and improve the overall effectiveness of the efforts to promote USMS and grow its membership.

We look forward to a) completing the new marketing collateral once the branding project concludes; b) where necessary, playing an active role in future Club Development and Corporate Partnership programs; and, c) working closely with the LMSCs to evolve and refine the USMS-LMSC marketing partnership program.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. No changes to the USMS Planner construction. Content changes may be considered, but no formal changes have been proposed.
2. Segment team research is expected to continue with more focus expected once the branding project concludes.
3. The committee will continue to be engaged with companion task forces, specifically Branding, Club Development, and Corporate Partnerships when applicable.
4. The Club in a Box program is also dependent on the results from Branding. The box materials will require attention, with an emphasis on professionally designed literature and tools to assist club development efforts.
5. The budget for Association Memberships has been consolidated. There will be a review of all external USMS affiliations by a Board of Directors appointed task force. The task force is expected to examine relationships with outside organizations and provide Marketing with strategic direction as to which associations we will partner with in 2009.
6. Efforts to assist with local LMSC marketing opportunities will proceed. The exchange of ideas and experience between USMS local and national marketing teams will continue to be pursued as a means to produce membership growth results.

Action items:

1. Plan for the completion of targeted segment literature
2. Plan for completion of Club In A Box
3. USMS-LMSC Marketing Partnership plans
4. Build the cases to budget for external affiliations/memberships
5. Assist task force initiatives when necessary.

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

MARKETING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm Roswell

1. Call to order
2. Review of 2008
3. Reports: TBD
4. Discussion of action items for 2008.
5. Old business
6. New business
7. Adjournment

OFFICIALS

Charles Cockrell, Chair
Ed Saltzman, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Pat Baker, Dave Diehl, Judy Gillies, Ted Haartz, Jan Kavadas, Paula Kelley, Mike Lemke, Charlie Kohknen, Leo Letendre (VP-National Operations), Fred Pigott, Paula Smith, Jim Sheehan (Ex-officio, USA-Swimming Officials Chair).

Opening paragraph:

The Officials Committee continued efforts to train and educate officials to strengthen officiating at USMS Championships and at the local level. We continued the practice of holding pre-meet and post-meet conference calls with Meet Referees and developed guidelines for officials briefings at National Championships. The committee is also maintaining a database of championship officials dating back to 2000, which should be a resource for Meet Directors in recruiting officials. We also revised the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of the Meet Referee and Administrative Referee.

At the local level, we developed a draft of LMSC Minimum Officiating Standards, which will be finalized at the USMS Convention. The minimum officiating standards are designed to develop some consistent guidelines for LMSCs to use and deal with duties of the LMSC Officials Chair, Education of Meet Referees, and briefings for deck officials. The minimum standards were reviewed at a series of LMSC Workshops held via conference call throughout the year. 36 of the 52 LMSCs attended a workshop in 2008. The workshops will be held on an annual basis to improve communication with LMSCs and continue efforts towards consistency of officiating within USMS. Each LMSC has also been asked to submit an annual report on issues related to officiating within their LMSC and these will be compiled and presented at convention as a means of measuring our progress towards the objectives of our charter.

The committee is also working on a number of resources for LMSCs to use in officials training. These include presentations on officiating, rule books for all LMSC Officials Chairs, and training videos. A revised draft of USMS certification standards will be considered at convention. The new certification standards will provide an option for LMSCs to train and

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

certify additional officials to supplement the pool of available officials from partner organizations.

Two officials committee members, Fred Pigott and Judy Gillies, served as deck officials at the FINA World Championships in Perth, Australia. Fred submitted a detailed report which will be used to improve our officiating practices at National Championships and to educate USMS swimmers on FINA rules interpretations and operations of FINA Championships.

Action items:

1. Finalize LMSC Minimum Officiating Standards
2. Finalize USMS Certification Standards

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Friday, September 26th, 11:15-12:15 pm

Greenbrier

1. Reports from 2008 USMS Championships and assignment of 2009 Liaisons.
2. LMSC Minimum Officiating Standards
3. Revised USMS Certification Standards
4. LMSC Training Resource Packages
5. Report from FINA World Championships and selection of FINA Officials.
6. Committee Organization and 2009 Projects

OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE

Marcia Cleveland, Chair

Ann Svenson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Marcia Benjamin, Bob Bruce, Christie Ciraulo, Susan Ehringer (Ex-officio), Suzanne Heim-Bowen, Bruce Hopson, Susan Kirk, Leo Letendre (Ex-officio), Donn Livoni, Randy Nutt, Jennie Quill, Janet Renner, Dick Sidner, Tom Spence, Laura Winslow, Jill Wright, Robert Zeitner

Opening paragraph:

The Open Water/Long Distance Committee is an active committee year-round. We oversee a total of 11 annual USMS National Championships, with well-over 3000 USMS members participating. Frequent email correspondence is circulated among the committee members, and all are asked to be frequently involved. We have had 2 conference calls, in Nov 07 and Feb 08; much of our discussions are done electronically. The VP of National Operations, Leo Letendre, is helpful in keeping us up to date about what other committees are doing and being aware of our activity. Our committee has active ties with several other USMS committees: Rules, History & Archives, Officials, Championship, Fitness, & Legislation. Vice Chair Ann Svenson has taken a very active role in the committee's business and has become the Chair of the Postal Events due to the overwhelming work load generated by this committee. Ann's help, along with other

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

committee notables Susan Kirk and Jennie Quill, have advanced the OW/LDC to yet another higher level to the benefit of all USMS members. Simply put, there is much more administrative, theoretical, planning, and PR work to do by our committee than one volunteer chair can possibly do. Because our committee has limited time to cover an extensive agenda at Convention, our subcommittee reports are included here within and will not be discussed during our Convention meetings. The goal of “growing open water” sparked several lively email discussions and conference call discussions. The most controversial of these inspired the cover article in the *May/June USMS Swimmer* and is sure to create some hot debates at convention: Whether or not to allow wetsuits at national championship swims. And there is the huge issue of the new tech-suits approved by FINA and their place in OW swims. Read on for these and many, many other items of discussion. If you have questions/comments on any of the items mentioned below, please contact either the Chair or Vice Chair of the OW/LDC.

Summary of Discussions, Projects, and New Ideas since the last convention:

1. USMS 25K National OW Championship Event

After 3 years of meticulous planning, the first USMS 25K National OW Championship is set to happen this month! USMS members had asked if putting together such an event was plausible and OW/LDC member Dick Sidner is making it happen. USA-S has dropped this distance from its schedule and USMS has picked it up, offering the solo distance and a relay opportunity (5 swimmers x 5K each). 45 soloists and 130 relay swimmers are registered. Dick is the poster child for excellence in conducting a USMS event. The venue we needed to consider for (potentially) a 10-hour race must be non-tidal and secure of boat traffic, not an easy combination to come by in the summertime. Dick selected Morse Reservoir in Noblesville, IN as a GPS-measured 5K loop course within home owners association. He has returned the \$1000 forwarded to him by USMS in Sept 2007 to use as seed money. Furthermore, with the superb help of his USMS team, NASTI, the NASTIs acquired a \$4000 grant from the local county simply by submitting a grant application. Dick secured all safety personnel (fire, police, EMTs, watercraft) for the full day, at no charge. He screened entry applications, issued regular updates to all competitors, coordinated housing and kayak arrangements, social functions, and local sponsors for this event, all while keeping his day job as an organ transplant researcher. It is a challenge to accurately express what a superb job Dick and his army of volunteers have done to create this inaugural event for USMS. Thank you Dick and all you NASTI friends!

Since this is such a daunting event to conduct, from both sides of the water, we plan to offer this event every 3 years in order to allow both our athletes and host facilities to properly prepare.

2. Standardized Forms

Susan Kirk and Ann Svenson continued to streamline the standardized forms. To date, USMS now has standardized forms for postal and open water events: entry forms, results, All-American standings, national record reporting and event evaluations. All forms were expanded to include space to capture USMS numbers and dates of birth to aid History & Archives in the future and the national office in mailing congratulations letters from the President to All Americans and certificates to record-breakers, All Stars and Postal Series participants. Postal relay entry forms were taken off page one and posted on the website to allow for this added information to be gathered. Split sheets were updated and posted on the website.

3. OHP Report

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Mel Goldstein and Indy SwimFit hosted the One Hour Postal using a new computer program that the OW/LD Committee hopes to be able to make available to all postal event hosts. More importantly, by being able to access the USMS National Database (NDB), results were compiled in an accurate, efficient manner. Thanks to the One Hour Postal event entry form running in Nov/Dec 2007 *USMS Swimmer*, the 2008 event drew 2215 individual participants and 192 relays. Mike Schaffer, 42, Ventura County Masters led all men swimmers with 5710 yds, and Susan Preston, 45, Stanford Masters, led the women with 5550 yds.

4. Use of NDB

USMS has given a few select members access to the National Data Base in order to make confirmation of event data more streamline and precise. Also, to keep up with our growing USMS History & Archives files, the expectations of NC results have increased to include USMS numbers and DOBs. In the long run, this is an excellent opportunity for USMS to keep better historical records but in the meantime we recognize the growing pains, especially for the event directors and are assisting them in any way we can.

5. Postal Series Participation

A. Participation in the USMS Postal Series more than doubled in 2007 with 57 swimmers putting together the full series of 5 events. All received patches they can proudly display.

B. USMS and Swim Across America are exploring an idea to include SAA support and contributions into our Postal Series, benefitting both organizations. This is a win-win situation but still in the developmental stage.

6. Postal Workshop offered at Convention

Because of the interest of the Postal events, we have designed a workshop at the 2008 Convention for interested USMS delegates. It will be held after our committee meeting on Saturday Sept 27. Check the final schedule for time and place. Mel Goldstein, 2008 OHP Event Director, and Ann Svenson, Chair of the Postal events, will present.

7. Our Committee Name

You trying saying it fast: Open Water and Long Distance Committee. A bit cumbersome on the tongue, huh? And what the heck does Long Distance cover? (How would Dara Torres qualify this?)

We have two avenues of renaming thoughts here:

- A. Open Water Committee (OWC)
- B. Open Water & Postal Committee (OW&PC).

Option A involves our committee being responsible for just Open Water events.

Option B involves our committee appointing 2 chairs: one for OW and one for Postal, with corresponding Vice Chair for each. The two chairs would have alternating terms, one following 2 years after the first. Since our committee expenses are minimal, we do not anticipate the additional coverage at Convention to be a financial burden to USMS.

8. Oh Where Oh Where do the Postal Events Go?

At the 2007 Convention, our committee was approached by the EC in hopes that the Postal branch of our group would be able to be taken under the guidance of the Championship Committee. We accepted this division with open arms (fins?) and immediately set the wheels in motion to make this happen. Much to our dismay, this transition did not occur in any sense aside from the creation of a "Postal Task Force", an entity which has yet to materialize and the need for its existence confounds this Chair. Around the turn of the year, in jumps the Fitness Committee Chair to express interest in taking over this high participation branch of USMS NCs. Not to her judgment lapse whatsoever, she was unaware of the volume of work involved, the

depth of knowledge necessary, and the history and competitive nature of these events. After some educational discussion, it was decided between the two chairs of the committees involved that Fitness, under its current definition, is not the correct place for the Postal events. The OW/LDC remains hopeful that the Championship Committee and EC will realize that the place where these Postal events would best serve our USMS membership is under the guidance of the (Pool) Championship Committee. An alternative solution, as previously proposed in this report, is to expand the role of the OW/LDC to include 2 chairs: one for OW and one for Postals.

9. Historical Progression of Postal Records Project

From Bob Bruce: In the fall of 2007, I volunteered to compile the list of the record progressions for the 5 & 10-km and the 3000 & 6000-yard Postal Championship events, with the ultimate intention of posting them on the USMS website in the Long Distance section. After consultation with Marcia on content and presentation details, I completed the drafts of this project in an Excel worksheet (in a form that easily converts to PDF format for posting) and submitted it in February 2008. These drafts included the individual and relay record progressions for these four postal events, as well as a checklist of issues which need to be resolved when I obtain specified additional information. I will continue to pursue these issues and the annual additions to this project. As I noted in the submission, this project highlighted beyond any doubt our need for standardized result forms.

I also volunteered for the record progression project for the 1 & 2-mile cable swims and to help with the entry of the One-Hour Swim record progression project into the desired format.

10. Historical Progression of Bids

Robert Zeitner has performed a historical task similar to that of Bob Bruce, for the LD bids, locales, and evaluations, noting declined bids so we may keep the full picture in mind when considering the annual bid process.

11. With Age comes Wisdom

We are actively seeking out a committee member who is most knowledgeable in the more senior age groups. Sometimes due to the youth and impulsiveness of many of us young committee members (read: 70 and younger), inadvertent slips are made, creating undue stress on those who need it the least. A seasoned member on our committee would be a major asset to any ongoing and/or future historical projects.

12. All Stars

2007 Long Distance All Star certificates were sent out by the national office and sponsor awards were mailed to the winners by new sponsor Finis. Each swimmer was sent an embroidered polo shirt. Thanks to Mel Goldstein for finding a sponsor.

13. All-Americans: Web Whereabouts

All American lists are posted at www.usms.org/comp/aa/indaa. In a perfect world, they will be separated into Individual and Relay listings; we're patiently waiting for such perfection.

14. LD Relay Record Holder Certificates

Tracy Grilli and the national office were extremely helped in issuing certificates to Long Distance Relay Recordholders as of 2007. Ideally, this committee would like to generate such certificates for all past LD record setters throughout each event. Using the historical work of Bob Bruce and others, we will be able to turn this into an eventual reality. Right now, however we're moving at 10K pace, not 50 free on this project so stay tuned.

15. Top Tab Menu Real Estate on USMS.org

The Open Water Committee, along with a substantial number of USMS members, believes that open water swimming can be the key to substantial growth of USMS. Every poll and survey in

the sport of swimming supports this. With that in mind we feel that a larger open water presence on the home page of the USMS website is critical. Having asked for this presence for a number of years to no avail we feel that USMS need to put this as a priority and move on this as soon as possible. Randy Nutt is still working to obtain this top tab as it will be a superb MARKETING opportunity for USMS!

16. Web Updates

The online manuals, web information, and other materials are forever in need of watch dogging and updating. We appreciate most input from our USMS brethren so keep those informative correspondences coming.

17. Location, Location, Location

The OW/LDC is working with Mark Moore and the Championship committee to incorporate OW NC bids with SCY and LCM pool championships. May 2009 will be our first recent attempt at accomplishing this possibility. The last time it was done was in Minnesota in August 1993. As a result, our committee will have its event selection on Saturday at Convention, after the Pool championship sites have been selected on Friday.

18. Awards

This year the committee will authorize medals and championship patches bids and purchases for 2009 and 2010. The committee will authorize bids and purchases for the postal patch, because of the substantial jump in participants (in 2006, there were 25 and 2007, there were 57). This bid and purchase will likely be for 5 years, to take advantage of quantity price breaks. Five bid offers will be sent out this Fall for medals and for championship patches, and for postal patches, with a decision to be made by early January 2009, with shipment by mid- February 2009.

19. Championship Modifications

We have made some modifications in the due dates of our championship packet. Certain events, such as the smaller postals, will benefit from more timely due dates.

20. LMSC Involvement for OW and Postal Events

Contacting LMSC LD chairs to get them more involved in promoting races and increasing participation, including sanctioning of more OW events. A big question our committee often gets is, "Is it possible to work with local LMSCs to help educate folks at the grassroots level about what to do to conduct an OW event", especially, "What is the process to sanction and post an OW event, both locally and nationally?" And "Why can't our OW event be recognized like a pool event?" This "local education" is a beautiful suggestion. When our organization bridges from an all-volunteer operation to a professional one, we will be better able to realize such ideas.

21. Local OW/LD Records

We are working with developing the idea of getting LMSCs to maintain records for OW (cable only) and Postal events. By doing this, LMSCs are able to hand out more accolades (real or imaginary) to their members and hopefully enhance participation in their program. Everyone loves to see their name in print and on the record board so if the 50 free isn't your particular reality, maybe the Postal 10K is.

22. Local Postal Competition in your very own zip code

Some LMSCs and Zones have also promoted competition in the postal events, as is being done by the highly popular Fitness event, **Go the Distance**. This is a beautiful suggestion. When our organization bridges from an all-volunteer operation to a professional one, we will be better able to fulfill such ideas.

23. Evaluators at 2008 OW Events

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Our committee asked a few USMS veteran OW swimmers (who are not committee members) to assess certain events this year. Their assessments of these events were superb, prompt, and allowed USMS to have experienced eyes and ears when we were unable to have a physical presence. This practice will be continued in the future.

24. OW NC Event Issues:

- We are working closely with event directors to ensure that their questions are answered early on, so their races will be run in a safe smooth manner.
- Active.com solicited all 2008 OW national championship race directors. We need to work with them to ensure that they gather all necessary information that race directors need: correct and valid USMS numbers. Getting swimmers to mail in a copy of their USMS card has not been easy and even if swimmers show their card at event check-in, there is no guarantee that that information matches what was on the entry. Therefore...
- We have assigned one committee member who has access to the national database to help directors get missing information.
- We are developing a race director's evaluation form to help us better determine how we can help them host a successful race. It has been pointed out that our requirements make hosting a national championship more difficult, and we need to improve this aspect.

25. Swishing the Water around the Entire Tank, way beyond our little corner

Our committee continues to work with other knowledgeable organizations, groups, and individuals within the world of open water swimming. Connections come up all the time, especially through Randy Nutt and Marcia Cleveland, but also from members such as Janet Renner who lives in Hawaii and keeps us informed as to the doings of those (magnificent) waters. We do our utmost best to initiate and reciprocate communication because in our corner of the ocean, one fin washes the other.

26. Biting the Hand that Feeds Us

Our committee has heard (third-hand) that One-Event Registrations are being phased out due to the work it creates for local registrars. This is of concern to OW/LDC because in many large races, a large percentage of the total participants are OEVTs. We would like to explore other USMS registration options available for our OEVTs if this OEVT possibility is no longer available.

27. Rule Proposals for 2009

Pertinent sections of the Rule Book were assigned to different members of the committee to review and to propose possible rule changes. Because of the new Techo-Suits (Should we call them "Smart Suits?") and the possibility of including wetsuit competitors in our national championships, the proposed rules from our committee creates a massive list.

28. New Techo-Suits

A big issue starting in February 2008 for USMS has been those darn new techno-miracle suits. Kathy Casey, Chair of Rules, and yours truly spent a whole lot of time this spring hashing over what suits have FINA approval. Such approval always has a ripple effect over USA-S and USMS and this time the situation was no different. Our list of approved suits (Is it a Bathing Suit or a Wetsuit?) has changed many times over the past few months but we are now able to send both our pool and OW event directors updated lists so that they may correctly advise their event participants. This process, akin to *CSI Bathing Suit*, has been high-paced, fascinating, and educational; fortunately no dead bodies were discovered. This issue is an ever-evolving one and will always be part of our USMS equation. When we two chairs were asked to test one of the approved suits, this chair advised the all-male design team of the specific suit manufacturer that

they need to consider adding more fabric to the front of their women's suit as not all athletes sport a 32A bust line or less.

29. Do Real Swimmers Swim Naked?

Upon leaving Convention in 2007, our committee was charged with the task of growing participation in Open Water swimming (OWS). We have embraced this task wholeheartedly but because USMS is still a volunteer organization (and has not yet gone professional), we are bounded by certain parameters. To this end, our committee decided to allow wetsuit participants in our national championships (NCs) to have full competitive status within their category. This is a big step for USMS because we are allowing the standards of another great adult athletic organization, USA Triathlon, to play into our organization, one in which our purist participants wear only "standard" bathing suits in their events, (suits that are made of porous fabric, covering the body from the shoulders to the top of the legs, leaving the limbs exposed.) The rules we have proposed at this Convention are carefully worded with the nuances necessary to allow this wetsuit participation to occur, and the boundaries that need to be upheld for our non-wetsuit participants. The Chair of this committee has been interviewed in several arenas, taking much expected heat over this matter, without any relief in sight. Endearing terms such as "elitist" and the like have been used to describe our committee's stance. In light of the receipt of this willingness to accept wetsuit participants in our NCs, our Chair wonders if we should propose allowing motorized bicycles for the second leg of our sister sport. The OW/LDC is willing to take this risk of including swimmers wearing wet suits and sees the benefit of increased participation to more USMS members, expanding our safety precautions, and hoping to alleviate more cases of hypothermia, all as solid reasons to propose allowing wetsuit participants to be included in OW NCs.

Drawing upon some sage advice from Karen Burton Reeder, an ISHOF member, multiple-year FINA world-ranked OW swimmer, and one-time USMS OW/LDC member, this fellow purists brings some wise words to the table to consider. Please view her website US Open Water Swimming Connection Admin@usopenwaterswimming.org

How did the wet suit trend get started anyways?

Triathlon is the answer, of course. Wet suit use is prevalent in this sport. This wasn't always the case, as initially only the pros had wet suits. Due to the variable conditions and temperature fluctuations of open water, organizers and athletes started to get worried to the point that triathlon race directors across the country began to embrace the use of wet suits. They didn't want water temperature deciding the outcome of the competition or causing problems for their event. After all, the triathlon is more than just a swim. As more and more people began using wet suits, triathletes noticed their swims were significantly faster. It was easy to see that wet suits improved buoyancy and when swimmers had them on, they were faster. This eventually forced almost everyone competing in triathlons to purchase a wet suit because those without them were losing time to those who chose to use this competitive advantage.

Another reason triathlon organizers embraced the wet suit is because it lowered the bar for people who were not good swimmers; they would now consider competing in a triathlon because wet suits float them on top of the water. Thus wet suit use greatly increased participation and allowed triathlon organizers to have events where water temperatures are colder. Their rule now states that wet suits can be worn at temperatures 78 degrees and below. 78 degrees in open water is rather warm, so clearly it is not just about water temperature anymore, but helping unskilled swimmers feel more comfortable participating. USA Triathlon also had to develop

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special rules about where and how deep the water temperature needed to be taken because organizers were trying "find" a cold temperature so that the wet suits could be allowed.

Should open water swimming embrace this trend of everyone wearing a wet suit in an attempt to increase participation? Open water swimming and triathlon are completely different sports and USMS is faced with the decision, Should we align our rules with USA Triathlon for our Open Water Events? In open water only the swim itself is being contested. Water temperature, warm or cold is a part of that contest. A wet suit is a flotation aid which increases a swimmer's speed and makes it easier to swim in cold water. Historically open water has been about adapting to the conditions, waves, currents AND cold. I believe the current USMS rule stated below is a good one.

USMS 303.6.3—Wet suits may be allowed at the discretion of the meet director. Wet suits generally provide a competitive advantage. If awards are given to wet suit competitors they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wet suit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wet suits.

This rule allows for events like the Pennock Island Challenge in Ketchikan, Alaska to allow wet suits for their event because the water temperature is usually 58 -- 61 degrees, very difficult for most open water swimmers, though a handful of athletes compete in just a swim suit. At the same time, a swim in 72 degree water, does not have to allow wet suits since it is fairly mild temperature which most swimmers can adapt to easily with some training. Why not encourage new open water swimmers to go without their wet suit in warmer temperatures? Encourage Event Directors to offer a special door prize available only to athletes participating in their first open water swim, or their first event without a wet suit.

The most famous and visible open water events, the Olympics and the English Channel, do not allow wet suits because their governing organizations realize that one aspect of open water swimming is adapting to and overcoming the conditions. National Open Water Championships should be a premier event for our sport contesting all aspects, including water temperature. Let's encourage people to embrace all the challenges of open water swimming.

30. Membership in the OW/LDC

If you are interested in being a part of an active committee that moves and shakes please consider the OWLDC. All members have a say but are expected to contribute at a high level. The current chair is energetic, involved, and knowledgeable but is also simply a volunteer to this organization. It's always a wild, unpredictable ride with waves and currents pushing us in all different directions.

Action items & Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

1. Prepare 2010 Bids for selection at Convention
2. Continue to monitor the on-going national championships: 5-10K Postal, 3-6000 Yard Postal, the 5K OW in Bend, OR, and the 2.4 m. OW in Madison, WI.
3. Wrap up national championships that have occurred to date.
4. Proof 2009 OW/LDC National Championship entries.
5. Study our USMS Rule Books inside and out.
6. Make sure our OWC gift t-shirts are clean and packed for Convention.
7. Watch the Olympics on TV, especially the Open Water 10K on 081908 and 082008; replace batteries in remote before 080808.

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OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm

Centennial III

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 am

Hanover F

1st meeting

1. Attendance
2. Approval of amended Minutes from Sept. 2007 meeting and written reports included in 2008 Annual Report.
3. Remarks by the Chair and Vice Chair
4. Assignment of evaluators for 2009 events.
5. Reports:

Dick Sidner: Open Water 25K Event

- Using the whole playing field of the community

All Other Reports are contained within the Annual Report and will not be discussed here.

6. Review of 2010 championship bids.
7. Discussion of Rules For Submission to HOD (as time permits).

Old business:

8. Those new high tech suits! Where can they be worn? FINA, USA-Sw, & USMS Rulings
9. Continued Ideas for growing the Postal Series Events – Tie-in with SAA?
10. Continuing to work with Officiating at OW Events - Examples of OW “legal” swimming. What constitutes an infraction?

New business:

11. The future of the OWLDC committee as a cohesive unit:
 - Committee Name needs to be clearer and shorter
 - The need for two Chairs for this one Committee
 - Necessary restructuring involved
12. Future options: Merge with Championship or Fitness?
13. Travel Expenses for USMS Evaluators
14. On-line entries and the race day precautions necessary for liability coverage
15. Other items?

2nd meeting

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair and Vice Chair
3. Selection of 2010 championship bids.
4. Continued discussion of Rules For Submission to HOD.
5. Finish up any business held over from the first meeting.
6. Committee “Team Photo”
7. Motion to adjourn until 2009

PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT

Heather Hagadorn, Chair

Lynn Hazlewood, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Christine dos Santos, Jeanne Ensign, Allen Highnote, Raena Latina, Ray Novitske, Ex officio: Mark Gill, Ex officio: Jim Matysek, Ex officio: Meg Smath, Ex officio: Bill Volckening

Opening Paragraph:

The Publications Management Committee manages all USMS publishing activities and sets publishing policy. The Committee develops and maintains or promotes the development and maintenance of publications that a) support USMS's values and operating principles, b) provide benefits and information services for all USMS members, c) provide viable marketing tools, where appropriate, d) provide an income source for USMS, where possible and e) employ the most current industry standards for design, style, editorial content and usability, where appropriate. The committee establishes working relationships with and supports the volunteer and professional staff developing USMS publications, including the publishers of the USMS national publication, web operations personnel, committees that publish information for USMS and National Office personnel.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The Publications Management Committee began monthly meetings in January, 2008. We generally meet the first Monday of every month.
2. The committee keeps in touch and keeps all members informed through monthly meetings. Minutes are taken and are shared with all committee members.
3. A mission, objectives and goals document was updated and used for guiding our direction throughout the year.
4. USMS SWIMMER Management: Management of USMS SWIMMER magazine is accomplished by the professionals engaged by USMS – Bill Volckening (USMS Editor) and Douglas Murphy Communications (DMC). The committee executes oversight of the editorial process via reports from Bill Volckening at the monthly meetings.
 - In June, Mark Gill, Heather Hagadorn, Lynn Hazlewood and Bill Volckening participated in an annual planning meeting with DMC executives in Richmond, VA. At that meeting, we finalized the editorial content of the 2009 magazines, and also determined methods to facilitate timely production of the magazine itself.
 - The committee has assumed the responsibility of taking over the contract management to closer manage budget and align communications with the USMS EC.
 - The committee has also recently taken on the responsibility of communicating specific due dates to LMSCs who rely on the magazine for the delivery of their newsletters.
 - A new email address was established for all committee questions related to the magazine: usmsswimmer@usms.org
5. Web Content Update Management: Ray Novitske is responsible for seeing that web content is kept current and timely. The Webmaster and the rest of the committee are kept informed and offer input into the process during monthly meetings.
 - The committee is exploring methods to enhance web content with the quality of magazine articles. The first regularly scheduled magazine quality article is planned to begin

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appearing around the September/October timeframe, and will appear in the SWIMMER portion of the USMS site, at www.usmsswimmer.com

- The committee recognizes the need to make more information available in electronic means, and we are planning several changes in 2009.
6. USMS Survey – to ensure we are meeting the needs of our membership, the committee is planning to conduct a new survey, to include questions related to SWIMMER and the Web.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm

Fairlie

1. Mag/Web Survey – planning, key points to target (Christine, Allen)
2. Web Content Management – proposal for 2008/2009 (Ray)
3. Magazine – 2009 schedule, 2009 overview (Bill)
4. Magazine – House Ads (Allen)
5. Publications Management Policies – Review and Update (Group)

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Sally Dillon, Chair

Hill Carrow, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Marianne Bradley, Hill Carrow, Kelly Crandell, Sally Dillon, Dan Gruender, Edie Gruender, Margie Hutinger, Graham Johnston, Walt Reid, Joan Smith, Richard Smith, Bill Tingley, Julie Heather (VP Liaison)

Recently, Sally Dillon has assumed the chairmanship of the Recognition & Awards Committee due to my excessive travel and constant physical relocation for my profession. Contact information will need to be updated for award submissions as the year comes to an end. We have also welcomed a very deserving new Ransom Arthur inductee, Barry Fasbender. Many nominations have come in regarding the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. The Club of the Year nomination form has undergone a drastic change. The USMS Nominee for ISHOF had been submitted for this year, and the R&A Committee has representation on the IMSHOF selection committee. Newly recognized people are constantly being added to the website, as well as previous recipients' information is updated.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The committee updated the Awards web site, and will continue to update the awards site.
2. Walt Reid made contact with Bob Dunkel of the IMSHOF to find out how/who to nominate for various categories. This year's nominee was Jim McConica for induction into the IMSHOF as an honorary contributor.
3. Sally Dillon headed the subcommittee for developing an effective Club of the Year nomination form, with assistance from Marianne Bradley and Margie Hutinger.
4. Nominations for the Club of the Year are being collected.

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5. The committee conducted the nomination process for the Ransom J. Arthur Award and selected the winner. This year's outstanding recipient was Barry Fasbender.
6. A subcommittee consisting of Rob Copeland, Hill Carrow, and Sally Dillon will review nominations for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award and present the awards to the winners at convention.

Action items:

1. Barry Fasbender was selected as the 2008 Ransom J. Arthur Award winner and was presented the award at the 2008 USMS Short Course Yard Nationals held in Austin, Texas.
2. Jim McConica selected as the USMS candidate for the Contributor Category in IMSHOF.
3. Revised the Club of the Year Award application form.
4. Nominations have been solicited for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award. The winners will be announced at convention.
5. Nominations have been solicited for the Club of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at convention.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm

Courtland

1. Introductions
2. Ransom Arthur pin presentation
3. Budget review
4. ISHOF & IMSHOF report
5. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award report
6. Club of the Year Award report
7. Other business

RECORDS AND TABULATIONS COMMITTEE

Ed Tsuzuki, Chair

Mary Sweat, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Will Amos, Vicki Buccino, Cav Cavanaugh, Barbara Dunbar, Laszlo Eger, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Julie Heather, Bruce Hopson, Ginger Pierson, Walt Reid, Jeanne Seidler, Chris Stevenson, Joy Stover, Mary Sweat, Ed Tsuzuki, Karen Tucker, Mary Beth Windrath

Opening Paragraph:

The Records and Tabulation Committee continues in its primary role of tabulating and verifying the top ten competitive swims, by USMS registered swimmers, in all courses. The committee also continues to track and maintain pool All-Americans and USMS national records. The committee is very closely aligned with the End-to-end Event Management Task Force, which will provide complete process oversight of USMS events (meets) from sanction/recognition to

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

publication of meet results (and therefore, inclusion of all official times and identification of records). To this end, the work of the committee is currently working with Jim Matysek, IT Director, on the development of web-based tools intended to:

- Simplify and automate (as much as possible) the work of the top ten recorder
- Improve the accuracy and completeness of the tabulation
- Provide enhanced visibility of the process and results to the USMS swimmer
- Expand the inclusion to all USMS swims

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Two formal positions have been established on the committee:
 - a. National Swims Administrator – Mary Beth Windrath continues to tabulate and publish the national top ten swims for all courses. Mary Sweat assists Mary Beth in this effort. Ed Tsuzuki manages the top ten data on www.usms.org.
 - b. USMS Records Administrator – Walt Reid continues to manage the entire records application and maintenance processes
2. Committee roles and responsibilities have been documented.
3. All top ten tabulations for 2007-2008 completed and published (hard copy and on the web) on time. NQT data provided to Championship Committee.
4. The 2007 All-Americans/All-Stars tabulation has been prepared and provided to the National Office and Swimmer magazine. Relay All-Americans have been tabulated and distributed to committee, LMSCs and clubs. Ginger Pierson continues to handle Relay All-American patch and certificate requests.
5. World and USMS records have been processed and managed by Walt Reid, as required.
6. An online “Records and Tabulation Knowledge Center” has been created with links to relevant procedures, forms, documents, and Committee information. It can be found at <http://www.njmasters.org/RecordsandTabDB/recordstabdb.html> and it is available for anyone to access it.
7. Key projects:
 - a. Top Ten Submission deadlines – Created tracking and follow-up process to ensure 100% on-time file submissions
 - b. Pool length data base – Walt Reid is maintaining a data base of pools that have been measured, which is available through the Knowledge Center
 - c. Top Ten archives – Working with Jim Matysek to get the Top Ten swims from 1972 through 2003 identified (swimmer IDs) and published on line
 - d. Records chronology – Working with Jim Matysek to provide chronology of USMS records, building off of the records data base that Ginger Pierson has been maintaining
 - e. End-to-end event management – Working with the end-to-end event management task force to test and validate web-based meet results tools to provide automation to the publication of all meet results and the creation of the LMSC top ten files to support the national top ten tabulation. Sub-committee established to spearhead this effort (Ed, Mary Beth, Mary, and Jim Matysek)

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

RECORDS AND TABULATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm Courtland

1. Introductions and agenda review
2. “End-to-end event management” discussion of integration of top ten process
 - a. Review of on-line tool development to date
 - b. Review of test case and exception handling scenarios
 - c. Prioritization of additional on-line tool requirements
 - d. Change management plan for LMSC Top Ten Recorders
3. Other projects status reviews (as time permits)
 - a. Knowledge center voice-of-customer
 - b. Top ten submission deadlines
 - c. Pool length data base
 - d. Top Ten archives
 - e. Records chronology

REGISTRATION George Simon, Chair Arni Litt, Vice Chair

Committee Members: William Bearden, Paige Buehler, Susan Ehringer, Chris Powers, Nancy Ridout, Anna Lea Roof, Marilyn Fink, Nancy Ridout, Jeff Roddin, Donna Schubkegel, Jeff Roddin, Associate Member Greg Webber Ex-officio members: Tracy Grilli, Esther Lyman, Julie Heather, and Leo Letendre

Opening paragraph:

The Registration Committee shall develop effective policies and procedures for registering members. Committee members shall assist LMSC registrars and communicate current policies and procedures. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and one member from each zone, and one member-at-large.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. On Line Registration – Registrar and Swimmer Interface implemented, registrar interface operational early November, swimmer interface operational late January
2. User guide for registrar’s use available via website
3. Committee recommended conversion to full membership from One Event Registrations be accepted throughout year instead of just a 30 day window
4. Committee recommended that for 2009 it not be mandatory for registrars to mail a registration card to each swimmer who registers online, to allow them to request a mailed copy in addition to an electronic copy
5. Progress on a rolling membership has been slow, would need to have a task force between many different committees

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Action items:

1. Need to get a registration test system operational in order to test discounted and late year 2008 year registrations and 2009 new and renewal registrations. The process for these registrations must be tested and verified prior to September 1st cut over date – committee members to test once available test system in place.
2. Need to get list of corrections for current registration application to vendor when test system is in place. The corrections and suggested usability enhancements will be tested by committee members.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm

Centennial III

1. Policy for additional logins for personnel other than registrars.
2. One Event Registration process defined since not implemented via online application.
3. Define club official's direct input of swimmer registrations requirements. This is being done in an ad-hoc method and tracking of waiver statement signatures is not available.
4. Enhance and assign duties for developing educational information for our registrars.
5. Policy on reuse of club abbreviations.
6. Find or make a new policy on position of workout group information on USMS card.
7. Action on any changes made by other committees that affect registration policies.
8. Status of Online Registration.
9. E-mail renewal process
10. On-Line club registration

RULES

Kathrine Casey, Chair

Lianne Crittenden, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Carolyn Boak, Peggy Buchanan, Kathrine Casey, Lianne Crittenden, David Diehl, Sally Ann Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Judy Gilles, Laura Kessler, Cathy Kohn, June Krauser, Cody Rasmussen, Sandi Rousseau, Jessica Seaton, Frank (Skip) Thompson, William Tingley, Kris Wingenroth; Charlie Cockrell (Ex-officio), Susan Ehringer (Ex-officio), Sean Fitzgerald (Ex-officio), Leo Letendre (Ex-officio), Bruce Stratton (Ex-officio)

Opening paragraph:

This is a rules year, so proposed changes to the Glossary and Part 1 are being considered by the Committee for recommendation to the House of Delegates at Convention. Proposed changes recommended by the Committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to pass. Proposed changes not recommended by the Committee require a two-thirds vote to pass. The Committee will also make recommendations to the delegates on amendments approved by USA Swimming. There are twelve USA-S proposed amendments that could impact USMS rules.

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Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Proofread the rule book for 2008 publication.
2. Updated the Differences documents for Appendix B in the 2008 rule book.
3. Updated the Convention section of the LMSC Handbook.
4. Answered all questions about rules including the following:
 - A. Timing; automatic timing, three semiautomatic buttons, or three watches are required for USMS and FINA records.
 - B. Wrist watches; a wrist watch itself is not a pacing device, unless the referee determines that an athlete is using the wrist watch as a pacing device.
 - C. New swim suits; USMS follows FINA approvals and rejections of new swimwear (see action below).
 - D. Backstroke turn; a swimmer can turn past vertical and, in a continuous motion, grab the wall before pushing off with the feet while on the back (do an open turn), 101.4.3.
 - E. Breaststroke kick; breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed as long as it is not followed by a downward butterfly/dolphin kick (except for the butterfly/dolphin kick that is allowed after the start and each turn, 101.2.3).
5. Published a “Rules Corner” column that addresses the most frequently asked questions about rules in *Streamlines*, posted them on the USMS Discussion Forum, and sent them to USMS SWIMMER magazine and the Coaches Committee.
6. Discussed distribution dates of rule book and effective date of new rules.
7. Conferred with FINA Masters Technical Committee and Head Referee for the FINA World Masters Championships in Perth to determine that rule interpretations would be as expected for USMS swimmers.
8. Reviewed and compared sections of Articles 101, 102, 103, and 108 with the corresponding sections of the USA-S rule book upon which those USMS rules are based, reviewed the remaining sections of Part 1 and the Glossary, compared Article 104 to the Meet Director’s Guide and the Meet Contract (for national championship meets), and submitted index additions and errors to the Rule Book Coordinator. The following committees were included in the review work: Officials, Article 103; Championship, Article 104; and Records and Tabulation, Article 105.
9. Assigned Rules Liaisons to National Championship meets, LMSCs, and Zones to assist with rules questions and rules interpretations on site at meets.
10. Clarified that splits from National Championship meets may automatically be considered as official times if so desired by the meet host and only if:
 - A. The technology is available to: search all legitimate splits, except those from individual backstroke events and DQs, for national records and produce those split times from the national championship meet in top ten format separate from that produced from the official results.
 - B. The officials agree to watch all relays for second swimmers starting in the water.
 - C. A written request for all splits for all swimmers except for individual backstroke events is submitted.Note that backstroke splits will be generated from individual events only if the swimmer has submitted an individual written request for such a split so officials can verify that there is a legal finish at the initial distance requested.

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11. Continued collaboration with USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee: USA Swimming and USMS insurance companies are working on an agreement regarding combined meets (dual sanction). The chair attended the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee meeting in May.
12. Submitted corrections of the USMS rules included in the “Our Kids Initiative” comparison of rules of all swimming governing bodies.
13. Assisted LMSCs and committees with proposed rule changes.

Action items:

The Committee approved the following policy regarding new swim suits: FINA approval or rejection of new swimwear will be accepted by USMS.

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am** **Hanover D**

Meeting #1

1. Consider proposed amendments to the rules and make recommendations to the House of Delegates.
2. Present the 2009 budget and report 2008 expenditures.
3. Review policy for disability cases.
4. Report on proposed dual sanction agreement.
5. Review proposed tasks for 2009.
 - A. Proofread rule book for publication
 - B. Update Differences documents and LMSC Handbook, Convention section
 - C. Review legislation
 - D. Review FINA rules
 - E. Situations manual or data base of frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems
 - F. History of proposed rule changes

Friday, September 26th, 9:15-10:00 am **Centennial I**

Meeting #2

1. Consideration of proposed rule changes for recommendation to the House of Delegates including input from delegates (meeting is unopposed by other meetings).

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 am **Hanover B**

Meeting #3

1. Further consideration of proposed rule changes for recommendation to the House of Delegates.
2. Tasks for 2009.

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Meeting #4, Saturday, September 29th, time to be announced during the House of Delegates meeting

1. Consider USA Swimming amendments as approved by the USA-S House of Delegates and make recommendations to the USMS House of Delegates.

SPORTS MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

Jane Moore, Chair

Jessica Seaton, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Jean Fox, Suzi Green, Michael Heather, Jane Katz, Laura Kessler, Jim Miller, MD, Ed Nessel, Joel Stager, Jody Welborn

Opening paragraph:

The committee has worked to educate members and the public on topics of sports medicine and science and to stimulate and encourage research related to Masters swimming.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Health Network: Jane Moore obtained the database of volunteers for the Health Network from Jody Welborn. The network was used effectively to answer questions from swimmers for the Healthy Swimmer section of USMS Swimmer magazine. Short articles were also submitted to be posted in the magazine area of the web site. The committee will work to expand and continue work of the network.
2. Sports Medicine Lectures: Laura Kessler arranged sports medicine lectures for Long Course Nationals and for the 2008 Convention. The committee will continue to arrange lectures for national events.
3. Stimulate Research: The committee continues its efforts to increase awareness of the availability of grants for scientific research related to Masters swimming. Jessica Seaton contacted the American College of Sports Medicine about publicizing grants.
4. Grant applications submitted to the endowment fund were reviewed by the committee.

Action items:

1. A budget item will be submitted to cover travel expenses and honoraria for speakers who lecture at national events. Travel expenses will be covered only if the speaker would not otherwise attend the event.

SPORTS MEDICINE AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm

Centennial III

1. Introductions
2. Health Network & USMS Swimmer
3. Sports Medicine Lecture series
4. Research issues

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- a. Stimulation of research
- b. Grant applications
5. Pertinent rules proposals
6. Goals for 2008-2009
7. Other business

ZONE

Julie Heather, Chair

Committee Members: Anthony Thompson, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Debbie Cavanaugh, Mike Lemke, Jane Moore, Leianne Crittenden, Jill Gellatly, Mary Hull

Opening paragraph:

Elections for USMS At-large Director positions are proceeding as planned. Six of eight current directors have elected to run again for a second term. Nominations have been received for both open director positions.

We continue to have problems with LMSCs not turning in annual meeting minutes and financial reports. There are also several LMSCs that have not cashed checks sent by USMS for the LMSC share of online registrations. The Zone Representatives are continuing to work with these LMSCs on compliance.

We provided financial support for convention expenses last year for several delegates from traditionally under-represented LMSCs. We will continue this project.

We will continue our very popular workshop series, with one evening focusing on LSMC growth and support, and the Saturday morning workshops focusing on position related tasks (e.g., registration, chairmen, top ten, etc.).

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

The Zone Committee has submitted two legislation proposals, and many housekeeping changes that need to be made to Appendix D

Action items:

1. Update the State of the LMSCs report
2. Run elections for USMS At-large Director positions
3. Ensure that LSMCs have completed required annual minute and financial report submissions
4. Ensure that the LMSC registrar and treasurer are not the same person
5. Ensure that LMSC funds are no commingled with club funds
6. Election Operating Guidelines: separate policy from procedures

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ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-8:45 am** **Edgewood**

1. Call to order, take roll, introductions
2. Approval of minutes of last conference call
3. Convention grants report
4. Elections
 - a. Status of current year elections
 - b. Executive Committee elections for 2009
 - c. Discuss if any changes are needed to EOG
5. Zone Committee Legislation proposals
 - a. Club registration
 - b. Appendix D oversight
 - c. Appendix D housekeeping
6. Discussion of legislation proposals that impact the zone committee
7. Decide on work plan for coming year
 - a. LMSC support
 - b. Election Operating Guidelines
 - c. Other
8. New Business
 - a. LMSC minimum competency, where do we want to go with this?
 - b. Other
9. Schedule next conference call
10. Adjournment

BREADBASKET ZONE

Anthony Thompson, Zone Representative

All the Breadbasket LMSC successfully began enrolling new members on-line in 2008. South Dakota may have seen a surge of membership due to the new on-line system, but it may also be due to other factors like workout groups that require insurance.

Colorado hosted Zone Championship on 28-30-March-2008 in Denver. In addition, COMSA hold 9 sanctioned events including a LCM event and an open water event.

Nebraska hosted USMS swimmers for workouts during the Olympic Trails in Omaha.

Ozark had new club form, so St Louis Area Masters (SLAM) is joined by the new club of Clayton-Shaw Park (CSP) Masters. Ozark and its clubs hosted 6 events in 2007-8 season, including their open water event in Potosi and LCM meet in Carbondale IL.

Missouri Valley (MOVY) moved website from previous host to USMS. The newly named MOVY Masters hosted 5 sanctioned events, including the popular all-relay meet.

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Iowa hosted at least 3 sanctioned event. The flooding in Iowa damped the swim season.

Minnesota hosted 7 sanction events including 2 open water swims.

South and North Dakota has little activity in 2007-8 season.

BREADBASKET ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Piedmont**

1. Introductions of Delegates and Volunteer to Take Minutes
2. Nominations for USMS BOD "At Large" Breadbasket
3. Nominations for Breadbasket Zone Rep to USMS Zone Cmte
4. Report from USMS BOD "At Large" Breadbasket
5. Report from Breadbasket Zone Rep to USMS Zone Cmte
6. Breadbasket Zone Championship Report 2008

COSMA

7. Breadbasket Zone Championship Planning toward 2009
Missouri Valley
8. Old Business
9. New Business

COLONIES ZONE **Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Zone Representative**

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. 2007 SCM Zone Championship held December 7-9, 2007, hosted by Rutgers University
2. 2008 SCY Zone Championship held April 11-13, 2008, hosted by George Mason University Patriot Masters
3. Zone meeting held April 12, 2008
4. Bid solicitation for 2009 Zone Championship Meets (all 3 courses); bids due 8/31/08
5. Solicitation for nominations from all LMSCs for Colonies Dot Award (nominations due 8/15/08)

Action items:

1. Committee to review nominations for Colonies Dot Award
2. 2009 Zone Championship bid collection and distribution for review
3. Development of vice-chair position description

COLONIES ZONE MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am
Roswell

1. Introductions
2. BOD nominations/approval
3. Approval of April 2008 meeting minutes
4. Presentation of 2008 Zone Dot Award
5. 2009 Zone Championship bids
6. New business
7. Adjourn

DIXIE ZONE
Debbie Cavanaugh, Zone Representative

Opening paragraph:

The Dixie Zone would like to extend a warm welcome to our new USMS Executive Director.

In the competition pool, our Zone meets have been getting great reviews. Kudos to Clearwater and Greenville.

Zone records, National Records & World records have been broken this past year. Congratulations to all. Open Water & fitness events seem to be catching on. The Florida and Florida Gold Coast LMSC's had the first LMSC Challenge in open water with Florida Gold Coast LMSC winning. Thanks to Dick Brewer for organizing this event.

Since convention, the LMSC chairs have had a conference call where the discussion was how to promote our Zone meets, following protocol at the local level, newsletters hard copy vs electronic, and do you pay your registrar and if so how much? The minutes from this call can be found on the DZ web site.

This is an At-Large Director election year. Jerry Clark is our current director and is running again.

As always a big THANK YOU!!! Without the commitment from our clubs, coaches, LMSC's & volunteers none of this would be possible. Special Thanks to Ed Saltzman our record keeper, Dick Brewer our web master, Andy Dyer our zone top ten, & Barb Protzman our newsletter editor. Tremendous job by all of you!!!

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DIXIE ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Vining**

1. Introductions
2. Financial Report
3. Election
4. Newsletter
5. Top Ten Times
6. Records
7. Virtual Championship
8. Zone Meets
9. Top Ten Patches
10. 2008 Calendar of Zone Meets
11. New Business
12. Discussion of "Hot" Convention Topics
13. Adjourn

GREAT LAKES ZONE **Mike Lemke, Zone Representative**

LMSC NEWS

Michigan

- 1 our registration was back up over 600 (07 it was 524)
- 2 we did our first on line registration for our State Meet 60+% did on line
- 3 Ralph Davis was elected to be Mi next president
- 4 We will award at least one \$1000 scholarship for the fall semester from our college education fund
- 5 the meet schedule (long course, short course meters, yards) expanded to 13 swim meets + our State meet + nationals- invitationals
- 6 with membership up we have recorded additional "swim groups" in areas not previously participating in masters swimming.

Lake Erie news

We are very proud to announce that our LMSC has expanded its number of clubs from the usual one or two to FOUR!. Our LMSC has had a long history of having the majority of its members belong to one club.

We held a variety of events this year in our LMSC. We held five pool events (hosts were two different clubs and the LMSC itself) and one open water event. We joined with the Ohio LMSC to host the Ohio State Masters Championships.

Ohio news

- 1) The Ohio LMSC has seen a 20.2% increase in its member registration from last year.
- 2) We successfully implemented a grant program for our USMS coaches to attend the ASCA world clinic every year. In return the selected coaches will provide several clinics throughout the

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year and offer them to the entire LMSC. 3 clinics were hosted since the last convention with great success.

3) Sanctioned 7 pool events and 2 open water events.

4) Increased USMS registration by \$3 last year and will increase another \$2 next year.

5) Will no longer offer OEVTs (one event registrations) since they were rarely used and when they were used, they were always done wrong.

GREAT LAKES ZONE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am

Greenbrier

1. Introductions
2. LMSC reports
3. Old Business –
4. New Business
5. 2009 Calendar of Zone Meets
6. Survey to make sure all LMSC's have bylaws, grievance procedures, and are up to date with financial reports to National Office
7. Election update and floor nominations
8. Discussion of Convention Issues important to the GLZ
13. Adjourn

NORTHWEST ZONE

Jane Moore, Zone Representative

The 2007 Northwest Zone Short Course Meters Championship was hosted on December 1st in Anchorage, AK. The 2007 Northwest Zone Short Course Yard Championship was hosted by Federal Way Masters in conjunction with the PNA Association Championship meet at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center (WKCAC) in Federal Way, WA. There will not be an official Northwest Zone 2008 Open Water Championship. The 2008 Short Course Meters Zone Championship meet will be held in Oregon in the fall.

The Northwest Zone is the location of several 2008-2009 national events. Oregon is the host for 2008 USMS National Long Course Championships at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, OR. COMA (Central Oregon Masters Aquatics) hosts the 2008 USMS 3-6 Mile Open Water National Championship at Elk Lake and the 2008 USMS 5 and 10 Kilometer Postal Championships. PNA's Ohana Swim Team will host the 2009 1 Hour Postal Championships. Each LMSC in the zone has hosted swim meets and clinics as usual.

Communication is an important part of the Zone Rep's activities. The Northwest Zone Chatter (newsletter) has been distributed electronically semi-monthly. It contains a calendar of events in the zone and information on activities in each of the LMSCs in the Northwest Zone. The web page (www.northwestzone.org) also contains up-to-date information on zone and LMSC events. Emails to LMSC Officers are sent as needed.

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NORTHWEST ZONE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am Fairlie

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from April 2008 meeting
3. Financial Report – Sarah Welch, NW Zone Treasurer
4. Old Business
 - a. Zone Event Reports
 - i. 2007 SCM Champs – Alaska
 - ii. 2008 SCY Champs – Federal Way/PNA
 - iii. 2008 USMS 3-6 Mile Open Water National Championship – COMA/Oregon
 - iv. 2008 USMS National Long Course Championships - Oregon
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. 2008 USMS 5 & 10 Kilometer Postal Championship – COMA/Oregon
 - ii. 2009 One Hour Postal – Ohana/PNA
 - c. Other
5. New Business
 - a. Zone Events
 - i. 2009 Northwest Zone Short Course Yards Champs
 1. Review bids
 2. Select site
 - ii. 2009 Long Course Champs – scheduled for Oregon (if held)
 - iii. 2009 Open Water Champs - scheduled for PNA
 - iv. 2009 Short Course Meters Champs - scheduled for PNA
 - b. At-Large Director nomination
 - i. Announce current nominee(s)
 - ii. Open for possible floor nominations
 - iii. Hold for/against vote by secret ballot for slating each nominee. (This is not a vote for one over the other if more than 1 nominee – a vote is held for each nominee only to determine if the zone supports nominee to go to HOD vote on Directors).
 - iv. Determine slate from zone
 - v. Destroy ballots after voting
 - c. Convention issues
 - d. Other
6. LMSC Reports
 - a. Alaska
 - b. Inland Northwest
 - c. Montana
 - d. Oregon
 - e. Pacific Northwest
 - f. Snake River
 - g. Utah
7. Adjourn

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

OCEANA ZONE

Leianne Crittenden, Zone Representative

PACIFIC LMSC SUMMARY:

The Pacific Masters Committee has adopted the following the Mission Statement: "*Pacific Masters Swimming welcomes anyone who would like to gain and maintain fitness through swimming and encourages programs to foster this mission.*" Goals include: (1) Target coaches and clubs for PMS programs and help; (2) Provide programs to enhance fitness and competitive opportunities; (3) Provide resources to help clubs solve their problems; and (4) Provide high quality competitive events.

Pacific Masters swimming held SCY Championships with over 800 swimmers and 40 broken records. LCM Championships had over 400 competitors and 8 World records.

Other highlights: Barry Fasbender received the Ransom Arthur award. Swimming World Magazine named Laura Val the 2007 Masters Swimmer of the year (with 8 LCM World Records and 14 SCM records). Runners up included Margery Meyer and Robert Strand. Walnut Creek Masters (2007 Team of the Year) were profiled in the March/April issue of USMS Swimmer; Suzanne Heim-Bowen and Jean Durston were profiled on the FINA web site in February and Lauren Welting of the Olympic Club was selected as Pacific Coach of the Year.

Pacific lost a long time volunteer and founding member, Dore Schwab, Jr on June 1, 2008. Dore was a Top Ten swimmer, president of Tamalpais Masters, Chairman of Pacific Masters, Dorothy Donnelly Award recipient, Chair of the USMS Marketing Committee and Zone Representative.

HAWAII LMSC SUMMARY:

Hawaii continues to concentrate on ocean swims (more popular than the swim meets). Membership is slightly down, around 400 members. Hawaii, made up of separate island communities is going to try to hold virtual meets to cut down on travel, and will let us know how it goes.

OCEANA ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Harris**

1. Review of Year
2. At Large Director Elections
3. New Business
4. Discussion of "Hot" Convention Topics
5. Adjourn

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE Jill Gellatly, Zone Representative

South Central Zone includes Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, consisting of 6 LMSCs. Each of the LMSCs is active with membership numbers stable. Our 2008 SC Zone meet was hosted by the South Texas LMSC in San Antonio and had about 250 participants. The SC USMS Nationals was also held within the SC Zone in early May and was very successful with over 1800 swimmers participating. The LC Championship is being hosted by the Gulf LMSC in late July at the Woodlands.

Beginning in 2006, the Zone established the Jessie Coon Memorial Award. This award is given in honor of the late Jessie Coon who was a stand-out swimmer in our Zone during his career. The award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the true spirit of Masters swimming but not necessarily the fastest swimmer. For 2008, the award was presented to Graham and Janis Johnston collectively for their contributions to the sport of swimming within our zone.

Discussions and projects:

We are currently developing a facility listing within our Zone that lists facilities capable of hosting USMS meets of varying sizes.

SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am Edgewood

- Introductions
- LMSC Reports
- Old Business
 - Distribute Survey of Membership for review
 - Maintenance of Zone Records
 - Facility Listing Project
- New Business
 - Calendar of Events for 2009
 - Zone Meet Bid SC
 - Zone Meet Bid LC
 - SC Zone Candidates for At-Large BOD position
 - Other
- Convention Hot Topics
- Adjourn

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

SOUTHWEST ZONE Mary Hull, Zone Representative

The 2007 Southwest Zone Short Course Yards Championship Meet was hosted by Mission Viejo, the Long Course Meters Zone Championships is scheduled to be hosted by Arizona, and there was no Zone Open Water Championship scheduled for this year. All four LMSC's (Arizona, San Diego-Imperial, New Mexico, and Southern Pacific) have hosted swim meets and there has been some open water swims as well.

SOUTHWEST ZONE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am Marietta

1. Introductions
 2. Zone Financial Report
 3. Zone At Large Director Nominations (current nominee: Laura Winslow from Arizona).
Open for possible floor nominations.
Close nominations
 4. Current Convention Issues
 5. Old Business
- Zone Meets
6. New Business
 7. Adjourn

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF GOVERNORS Doug Church, Chair

Committee Members: Mark Gill, Ted Hartz, June Krauser, Jim Miller, Rob Copeland, Jody Wellborn, Mel Goldstein, Tom Boak, Julie Heather, Michael Heather, Patty Miller, Dan Gruender, Leo Letendre, Meg Smath, Mike Laux

Opening paragraph:

The United States Masters Swimming Endowment Fund was established to provide a philanthropic means of supporting projects that benefit Masters swimmers and to receive gifts and contributions as memorials or honoraria recognizing achievements by Masters swimmers. It is governed by the Board of Governors which receives and approves grant requests and otherwise governs the activities of the Endowment Fund.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The BOG authorized a grant at last year's convention to Metro for a Pilates based alternative training program.
2. The Endowment Fund has received a grant application which has been circulated for discussion and action at convention..

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

Action items:

1. At convention, all formal requests for funding will be considered and voted on.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am

Edgewood

1. Call to order.
2. Review of financial report for 2007 and current 2008.
3. Consideration of Grant request(s).
4. Other old business.
5. New business.
6. Adjourn.